

Transition: The Galatians have a big decision to make: fall back into feasts and special days, cultural traditions or live by the Spirit in freedom. Paul continues in this chapter to emphasize the difference between living by the law and living by faith in Jesus' love. Paul questions what happened in their walk? They were walking by faith so well, something must have changed. Paul admonishes the negative influence on their faith walk and reminds them of freedom in Christ, led by love.

Tell the story:

Tell the story (with passion!) the best as you can, don't stop and teach, try not to make points, just tell the story. Perhaps leave some parts out or make a mistake, just to see if your group catches it!

Rebuild the story:

Chronologically rebuild the story by asking questions. Have the group look for what was added or left out by looking in their Bibles and going back over the story. Then have someone else tell the story the best they can – just like you modeled the first time.

Discussion Questions:

1. How should we show our dependency on Christ?
2. Why is it so difficult for many to heed the warning from Paul in v.21?
3. What does it mean to “walk by the spirit”?
4. Why is it important for the believer to understand the evidence of a life led by the flesh and one led by the spirit?

Fundamental: We now have a 180-degree lifestyle! God welcomes us the way we are, but change begins to happen from the inside out. We stop living for ourselves and desire to glorify the Lord by our actions and words. The Baptism in the Holy Spirit gives us power to witness and gives spiritual gifts to edify and serve the Body of Christ (The Church). The fruit of the spirit becomes evident in our lives as we walk by the spirit which is at war with the flesh.

Homework/Challenge:

1. Review your daily walk, how much are you asking the Holy Spirit to guide you rather than just doing what feels good?
2. Memorize the Fruit of the Spirit list v. 22, 23 (9 listed)
3. For the next 9 weeks- pray over 1 fruit and how you can live it out that week, come back and share with your group

Discipleship Tip: The Spirit led life is the only way that we can have victory over the flesh. This is a constant war that we must be aware of and be prepared for to enter into battle each and every day. Ephesians 6:10-20 helps us understand how to prepare.

Prayer: Thank you, Lord, for sending the Holy Spirit to live in me and be my Helper and Guide. Help me not to grieve the Holy Spirit by my actions and words, instead help me to walk by the spirit with evidence of your fruit.